



The Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

63 Years of Public Service, 1949 to 2012

Volume 62 Number 7

www.phil-mont.org

July 2012

July 4th, Independence Day

And I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free.
And I won't forget the men who died, who gave that right to me.
~Lee Greenwood

What is the essence of America? Finding and maintaining that perfect, delicate balance between freedom "to" and freedom "from." ~Marilyn vos Savant, in *Parade*

The United States is the only country with a known birthday. ~James G. Blaine



*Good weather + good food + good folks =
A great Field Day!*

<i>The Blurb</i> is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. <i>Copying and quoting</i> is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. <i>Subscriptions</i> are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer. Editor: Rick DeVirgiliis ND3B nd3b@arrl.net 215-908-7225 Labels and mailing: KB3IV Submissions deadline: All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.		Directors: WU3I (12) W3MHP(12) KB3SJS(12) WA3KIO(13) N3QV(13) ND3B(13) KB3IV(A)	Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 88 Abington, PA 19001 http://www.phil-mont.org Website: Eric N3QV & Andrew KC2PMW For club information: Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: KB3IV
		Sunday Morning Net Schedules • 2 Meter/ 70cm Net..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater • 10-on-10 Net at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM) • 75 meter Net at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB • ARES at 2100L on the W3QV repeater	
Committees Audit: NS3K Blurb folding: KB3IV & N3GLU Directory: KB3IV	DX: N3MT Emerg.Coor: K3HWE Field Day: KE3QB Internet: N3QV & KC2PMW Membership: N3XKE	Net Control: KB3IV Publicity: W3RM Program: Club VP Public Service: KE3QB Refreshments: W3AOK Repeater: W3AOK	Scholarship: W3RM Skywarn: WX3PHI Sunshine: N3GLU VE Program: NS3K Welcome: N3UBY Youth: KC2PMW

All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at **Roxborough Memorial Hospital**, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128
Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org.

License Examinations are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at **Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002**
Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmccloskey@msn.com for the latest information.

Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System
Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**
147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz
Reach us on EchoLink through W3QV-R
W3AA Trustee: WU3I
W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: N3QV

The Officers

Pres: KB2ERL Bob Nicotera bnic1903@msn.com
Vice Pres: W3STW Al Tribble wstw@juno.com
Sec: KB3MIV Jen Miller jencaz29@gmail.com
Treas: W3RM Richard A. Moll roger.mike@verizon.net
Asst. Treas: N3MT Michael P. Taraborrelli michaelmt_1999@yahoo.com

The Prez Sez ...



73, Bob KB2ERL

***Phil-Mont
Birthdays & Tidbytes***

July Birthdays

02 Ted Katz - N3OWM
Alice Popovic (XYL W3AOK)
03 Nicole Bohlander (XYL WA3KLR)

10 Natalie Gordon - WB3KOH
12 Grace Smith (XYL K3GBA)
14 Larry Clifford - W3UY

23 Art Weiner - WX3PHI
25 Jinny Haring - W3IIN
26 Mai-Lin (XYL N3BKR)
27 Robert Hill - KB3HNB

29 Jim Larkin - KA2FFP
31 Steve Hoch - WU3I

MEMBERSHIP STATS

At press time P.M.R.C. had:

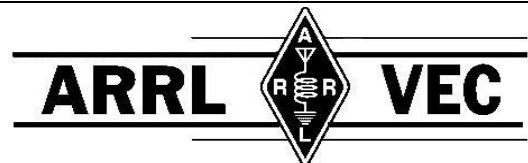
85 FULL PAID MEMBERS

8 FAMILY MEMBERS

3 YOUTH MEMBERS

1 HONORARY MEMBER

4 PENDING MEMBERS



***The VE evening session is on Thursday the
26th this month.***

As always, many thanks to our VE team!

From the Secretary

General Meeting Minutes, June 13, 2012

Bob, KB2ERL, opened the meeting at 19:56 hrs greeting the 16 members and 5 guests attending. He reported that the MS Society Mud Ruckus event, which took place the previous weekend, was a huge success. This was a two-day event and they were able to raise quite a few donations for this worthy cause. He also reminded everyone that the MS150 City to Shore Bike-a-thon would take place at the end of September. Please check the Phil-Mont website for information about signing up to participate as a volunteer for the event.

Treasurer, Dick, W3RM reports that the club is solvent and also that the club's scholarship recipients will be announced at Field Day. Dick also recognized four prospective club members present who submitted applications for membership. They are; Chris, N3GBJ, Susan, KB3YQM, Sal, NC3U, and Jim, N3SHM.

Ed, KB3IV, reported that the Nets on the repeater were being well attended, and he is still looking for additional net control operators.

Bill, W3AOK, was not available to give a repeater report, but Steve, WU3I, reported that all was well. We will be doing additional maintenance and adjustments in the near future to improve the performance of the system.

Jim, NS3K, reminded all that there will be our quarterly Saturday VE Testing session on June 16 followed by our monthly testing on Thursday June 28.

VP, Al, W3STW, introduced our program for the evening. Andrew, KC2PMW, reviewed the club's plans for Field Day. Meals will be provided by WU3I. Andrew has flash drives with the logging software for each station operating. You must bring your own computers for logging. There will be some spare equipment available if needed along with wire antennas and coax. A WI-FI hotspot will be deployed, thanks to Jack, WA3BXH. All

operators are required to bring their original or a copy of their current Amateur Radio License.

A final reminder, there will be no club meetings during July or August. See you all on September 12.

de Ed, KB3IV

Bob Thomas, W3NE



Professor Bob

THIS AND THAT
Miscellaneous Ramblings
Bob Thomas, W3NE

Rather than focus on a single topic this month, an opportunity will be taken to cover a few miscellaneous items worthy of reporting, some recent, some vintage.

Clearing the Record. The title of this section has been stolen directly from the pages of the Philadelphia *Inquirer* therefore it epitomizes journalistic integrity and excellence. The *Inky* never makes a mistake so they have no need for a column called "Corrections." Instead, their headline terminology is "Clearing the Record," where they publish *corrections*. Go figger. Anyway, in the May *Blurb* article about Phil-Mont's first Field Day, the year that it occurred and the score we attained were misstated. See, there is no admission that anything in the article was wrong, so the following is simply a clarification, not a correction.

Recent acquisition of some old *QST*s opened a window onto what actually occurred. The year of our first FD was 1955, not 1952. Furthermore, and of greater significance, we did very well on that first attempt: W3RQZ/3 made 635 contacts in Class AB (we ran 15 Watts on 2M, and 100 W. on two HF transmitters) for a score of 4710 points. That placed us in the upper 11 percent of all 3-transmitter entries, in contradiction to “much closer to the bottom than the top” as stated in the article. I just wanted to clarify that.

A few statistics. Average age of U.S. hams in 1938 was 29.5, less than half of today’s ageing appliance operators. There were only about 50,000 licensed amateurs then compared to over 750,000 today, so why were the bands seething with QSOs then but half-empty today? We now represent only 0.24 percent of the U.S. population compared to Japan, where 3,500,000 hams account for over 2 percent of their country’s population. A surprising factoid is that Thailand is third after the U.S. in licensed amateurs! A 1939 survey revealed that 94.5% of ARRL members built their own transmitters and 24% made their receivers.

The Copying Bee. The ARRL conducted an annual CW receiving competition known as the “Copying Bee” for several years prior to WWII. International Morse text was sent automatically at 25 words per minute from several amateur stations across the country to make them equally accessible to everyone. Messages were equivalent to 60 words of plain language with intentional cunning spelling errors, character groups with confusing code combinations, call signs, and punctuation. Because of the devious spelling errors, receiving operators had to write down exactly what they heard, with no possibility of anticipating or guessing. For example, part of a message might be sent as: **HE WHO LAUGHS LAST LAUGHH BEST HIHARD AND TEME (GILA) CQ IS THE GENERAL CALR.** Received copy was sent exactly as originally written down to ARRL for evaluation and scoring; copy that had been corrected was disqualified. This was an era when CW operating was prevalent so it was not uncommon for several hundred hams to participate, of which only a half-dozen might score 100%. All

scores were listed in *QST* and winners received a bronze medallion for an honorable activity in amateur radio that has been lost in the dust.

Phone operation on 40 Meters. Various circumstances determine how and when changes are made in amateur-band mode assignments. For example the rise of the Novice Class, as well as recent variants on relaxation of FCC qualifications for amateur radio operator licenses have resulted in population of HF and VHF bands by new hams of varied knowledge and skill levels. The 40 meter band, 7000 to 7300 kc., had been reserved exclusively for amateur CW operation as agreed at a world-wide conference in 1929. Those rules were then changed following a bitter dispute at the 1938 Cairo International Conference when short wave broadcasting from non-American regions was permitted to intermingle with ham communications from 7200 to 7300 kc. Those newly authorized high power SW transmissions might have originated far from North America, but they were beamed to an audience right here and right among amateur CW QSOs.

The adoption of that imprudent change caused apoplexy at ARRL like nothing else seen since! ARRL General Manager Ken Warner wrote scathing editorials in *QST* advocating outright interference to SW stations by hams, who he encouraged to intentionally QRM SW broadcasts at every opportunity! When a powerful French SW station went on the air he wrote, “Well, what are little transmitters for? We’ve got a right to work on 7280 kc. too. As one seagull said to the other seagulls, ‘What’re we waiting for?’” There was concern that CW ops would take the easy way and stay in 7000-7200 kc., surrendering the upper end of the band to foreign broadcasting. It was widely thought that occupancy of the upper 100 kc. could be contested more effectively if that segment of the band were opened to amateur phone operation. Brad Martin, W3QV, whose call now distinguishes our repeater, was ARRL Atlantic Division Director. During the 1939 Board of Directors meeting Brad successfully introduced a motion to poll North American amateurs on the desirability of obtaining FCC authorization of A3 modulation from 7200 to 7300kc. However, while the poll was in progress Europe became enmeshed in war so the issue was

dropped. Phone in 40 meters was not considered again until the mid-'fifties, when it was approved, more because of increased popularity of phone operation and the ascension of SSB than vindictiveness over marauding SW broadcasts, most of which continued to occupy the 40 meter band until recently.

License Class: Technician (Exp. 05/01/2022)
E-mail: SFGG123@aol.com

Salvatore C. Marandola - N3CU (Sal)
722 Mill Grove Drive
Norristown, PA 19403
Phone: Home: 610-306-2817
DOB: 06/18/1959
License Class: Extra Class (Exp: 06/15/2022)
Carpenter Foreman
E-mail: NC3U@verizon.net

James L. Lamont -- N3SHM (Jim)
4708 Sheldon Street
Philadelphia, PA 19127
Phone: Home: 215-483-7597
DOB: 08/27/1953
License Class: General (Exp: 07/08/2014)
Occupation: Disabled/Retired
E-Mail: N3SHM@comcast.net
Spouse: Susan Lamont
Housewife
DOB: 09/02/1954

Have you heard about D-Star?

Philadelphia Digital Radio Assn meets the first non-holiday Monday of each month at the Community Ambulance Assn 1440 East Butler Pike Ambler, Pa. 19002 at 7:00 pm.

The club has two D-star repeaters on the following frequencies: On two meters - 146.61 (-) and on 70 cm 445.18125 (-)

I run a weekly club D-star net on Mondays at 8:00 pm local time on the club 2 meter frequency.

de Jim, NS3K

The following radio amateurs have applied for membership in PMRC

Christopher D. Ruhl -- N3GBJ
(Chris)
105 Clifton Avenue
Collingdale, PA 19023-3809
Phone: Home: 484-494-7572
Work: 215-580-4182
D.O.B. 03/31/1960
License Class: Extra (Expires: 01/03./2018)
Occupation: Security Manager
ARRL Member - Yes (Exp. 04/23/13)
E-mail: CDRUHL@comcast.net

Susan Garretson -- KB3YQM
4809 Ridge Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19129-1736
Phone: Home: 215-487-0545 Work: 610-644-7800
Ext 2373
DOB: 01/23

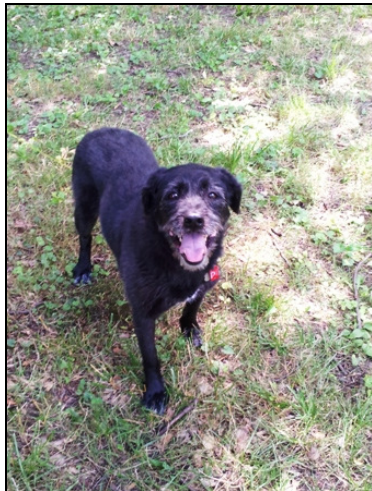
Check out this rope for your antenna project –

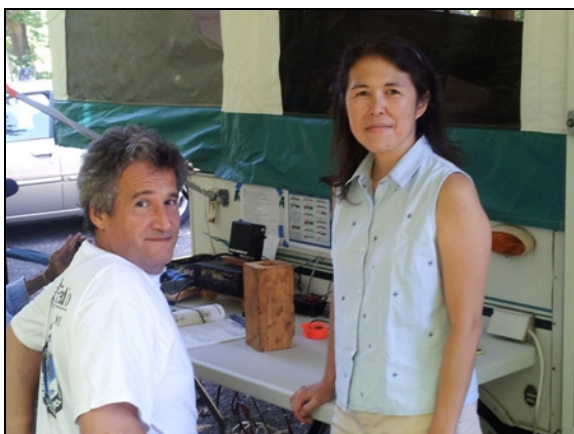
3/32" Braided Olive Drab - Dacron / Polyester cord

This is a high quality braided polyester cord with a breaking strength of 210 pounds. Proudly Made in the U.S.A.!

This is a gorgeous solid braid perfect for dipole antennas. Very low stretch and strong. Will withstand the weather & sun for 7 to 10 years.

***PRICE \$10.00 PER 100 FEET
SOLD IN 100 FOOT LOTS
CONTACT STEVE WU3I AT
WU3I@ARRL.NET***





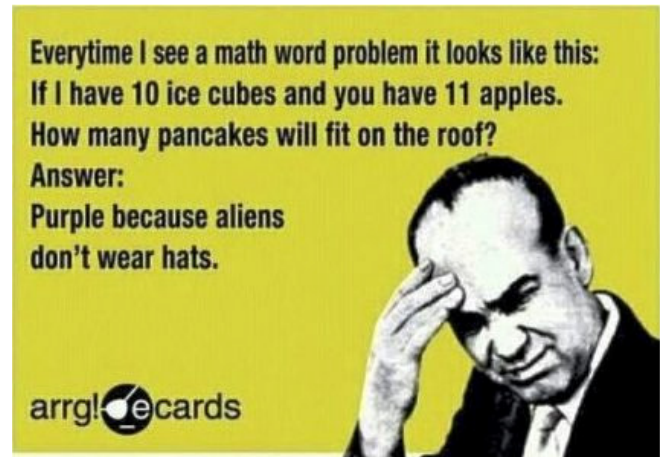


July at Phil-Mont

There are no meetings in July or August

1st Sun K3XS NCS
4th Wed Independence Day
7th Sat Chocolate day
8th Sun W3MHP NCS
15th Sun KB3IV NCS
Cow appreciation day
22nd Sun KB3SJS NCS
26th Thurs VE test session
29th Sun N3QV NCS

***Don't forget the ARES net on Sunday nights and
the Digital net on Tuesday nights.***



How non-technical people see the world
(Thanks Eileen!)

First Class Mail

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc
1700 Street Rd. Apt. H3, Warrington PA, 18976

The Blurb